

# Frequently Asked Questions

## City Sanctioned Encampment Siting

### **How many encampments does the City anticipate supporting?**

The City will make available 3 sites on City property for the use of encampments per year. Sites being identified were limited to unused or vacant property throughout the city. Park properties were not considered for encampment siting. Sites identified have been primarily owned/controlled by Seattle City Light and generally consist of vacant sub-station properties.

### **Where will encampments be located?**

Encampment sites are limited to industrial or commercially zoned areas of the city unless they are operated by a faith organization, or on educational major institution sites. An effort will be made to distribute the sites throughout the city based on these zoning restrictions. Encampments must be at least 1 mile from any other encampment.

### **Who is operating the encampments?**

Two encampment operators were selected through a qualification review process. SHARE and Nickelsville have been operating homeless encampments for years in the Seattle area. LHI will be providing case management services to individuals. Additional operators may be selected in the future.

### **What oversight will be provided at the encampment sites?**

The encampment operators are responsible for safety and security within the camp. Residents are screened for acceptance and must follow camp rules in order to stay. Banned residents will not be allowed to return to camp or to camp in proximity to the City-owned sites. Staff from the City's Human Services Department will make regular site visits to any City-owned encampment. Additionally, the case management provided will be on-site regularly along with public health, mobile medical outreach and food and meal providers.

### **What if neighbors have a concern or question related to an encampment, who do they contact?**

The operator will meet with the community at least once before applying for a transitional encampment permit. In addition, they are required to establish an on-going Community Advisory Committee who can provide input on encampment operations. Neighbors can also contact Kim von Henkle, 206-615-1573 or [Kim.vonhenkle@seattle.gov](mailto:Kim.vonhenkle@seattle.gov)

### **How will public safety be addressed?**

Seattle Police Department will be made aware of each encampment location and will provide community policing support to the encampment residents and the neighborhood as a whole. SHARE and Nickelsville regularly participate in community meetings in an effort to support public safety.

### **How long will each encampment be allowed to remain?**

Each encampment can operate for 12 months with the option for one additional 12 month extension. Each site must be vacant for 1 year between encampments.

### **How can I support the encampment in my area?**

Operation Sack Lunch (206) 922-2015 is a great organization that delivers meals to encampments as part of their mission. Supporting OS� is perfect way to support the nutritional needs of campers. The encampments will have ongoing needs for supplies such as water, propane, bedding, tents, storage containers, and nonperishable snack foods.



**City of Seattle**  
Human Services Department

# Frequently Asked Questions, Cont'd

## Mayor Murray's Operating Principles of Public Lands Encampments Ordinance

1. Aim to expand options for encampments
2. Minimize neighborhood impacts
3. Retain best practices to end homelessness

| Topic   | Text   |
|---|--|
| <b>Operator</b>   | City or private party with prior experience managing shelters, low-income housing, or homeless encampments   |
| <b>Location</b>   | City-owned or private property* in non-residential zones (Industrial, Downtown, Seattle Mixed, Commercial 1, Commercial 2, Neighborhood Commercial 2, Neighborhood Commercial 3)<br><i>*Not allowed on unopened right-of-way or parks</i>  |
| <b>Location near transit</b>                                    | Within one-half mile of transit stop   |
| <b>Operations plan</b>  | Written encampment operations plan required from the encampment operator addressing provision of human services, site management and maintenance, and security. Plan requirements to be listed in and adopted by DPD Director's Rule, in consultation with HSD, including human service requirements.  |
| <b>Permit type/Notice &amp; Community outreach requirements</b> | "Type I" Master Use Permit with no notice or opportunity to appeal to the City Hearing Examiner.<br><br>Outreach requirements, including a Community Advisory Committee and methods for handling community complaints, operations standards for encampment, and notification process for transition from one site to another to be established by HSD and DPD joint Director's Rule. |
| <b>Duration of stay</b>   | Maximum of 1 year with 12 month interval before return to same site allowed – option for conditional renewal for 12 additional months.   |
| <b>Maximum number of occupants</b>                              | 100  |
| <b>Dispersion between encampments</b>                           | One mile minimum between sites including dispersion from encampments on religious property (encampments on religious property and encampments of fewer than ten persons are exempt)  |
| <b>Number of encampments allowed</b>                            | No more than three encampments with up to a maximum of 300 inhabitants at any one time.  |
| <b>Lot size</b>   | 5,000 square feet or larger and minimum of 100 square feet per encampment occupant   |
| <b>Buffers/Screening</b>  | Encampment site lot line must be 25 feet from residentially-zoned lot. Lot may be closer than 25 feet as long as all encampment facilities and activities are at least 25 feet from a residentially zoned lot and is screened along all boundaries except on a public street   |
| <b>Parking</b>  | 1 space for each vehicle used as shelter and 1 space for every two staff on-site at peak staffing times  |
| <b>Health and safety standards</b>                              | Observe requirements of Public Health Department, same as SMC Section 23.42.054 standards for sites owned or operated by religious organizations   |
| <b>Inspections</b>  | Officials of Public Health Dept, Fire Dept. and DPD to be allowed to inspect outdoor and plainly visible areas with no prior notice.   |
| <b>Service Requirements</b>                                     | Human service providers contracted by City (social workers, etc.) to be allowed access to site to provide outreach services  |
| <b>Sunset Provision for Code Provision</b>                      | Five years   |
| <b>Insurance</b>  | Operator to maintain liability insurance for encampment on City-owned property; indemnification agreement between operator and City for liability/loss   |
| <b>HMIS data collection</b>                                     | Recital states: WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Mayor and the City Council that any encampment operator seeking City funding for operations or a lease agreement for use of any designated City-owned properties to site an encampment would be required to participate in the City's Homelessness Management Information System as managed by the Human Services Department;       |